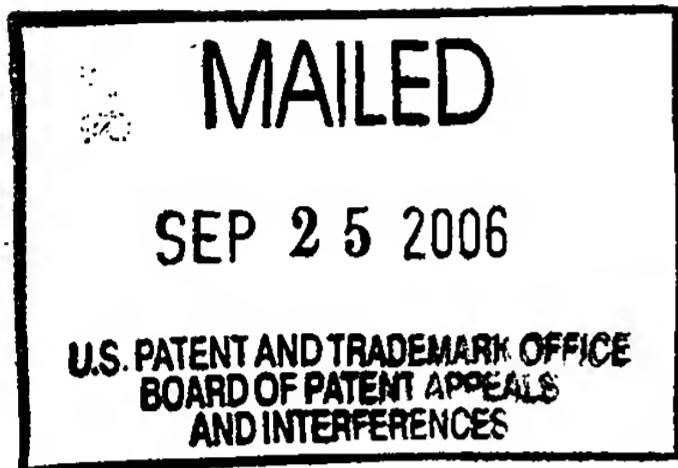


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES



Ex parte MASAHIKO NAKAYAMA

Application 10/631,897

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on September 21, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being electronically returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below:

An examination of the Image File Wrapper (IFW) reveals that an Examiner's Answer was mailed May 4, 2006.

Section § 1207.02 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (8th Ed., Rev. 3, August 2005) states:

Requirements for Examiner's Answer

The examiner's answer is required to include, under appropriate headings, in the order indicated, the following items:

....

(8) Evidence Relied Upon. A listing of the evidence relied on (e.g., patents, publications, admitted prior art), and, in the case of nonpatent references, the relevant page or pages.

It is noted that while the Examiner's Answer states that “[n]o evidence is relied upon by the examiner in the rejection of the claims under appeal” [page 3], the claim rejection is listed as follows:

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Christopher (4,731,851).

Correction is required.

Accordingly, it is

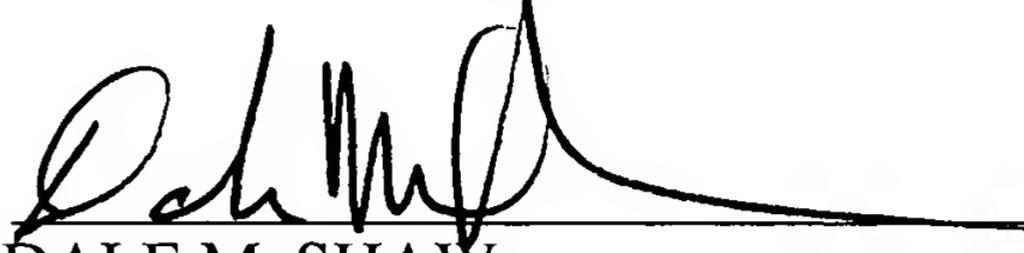
ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner:

1) for submission of a revised Examiner 's Answer which corrects the “ Evidence Relied Upon ” section; and

2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By:



DALE M. SHAW

Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator
(571) 272-9797

DMS/psb

Steven I. Weisburd
Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky LLP
41st Floor
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-2174